



Community Shelter Board

Community Shelter Board
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Mission

The Community Shelter Board (CSB) coordinates the collaborative planning process of its partner agencies to develop solutions to alleviate homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. CSB also oversees funding for emergency shelter and homeless prevention programs while collecting standardized demographic data for all shelter residents.

The prevention, shelter and housing programs offered through our partner agencies are designed to assist families and individuals locate and maintain stable housing, regain their dignity and return to the workforce as productive members of our community.

The CSB has adopted a new strategy that has gained national recognition - *Rebuilding Lives* - based on studies of the best practices of local, state and national organizations. *Rebuilding Lives* is designed to promote a coordinated, targeted, cost-effective plan that will provide shelter and services when, where and how they are needed. We are placing significant emphasis on the needs of those individuals that require more long-term assistance. We are developing a network of supportive housing and connecting homeless persons to needed programs and services to help them overcome the problems that have kept them on the street.

CSB was created in 1986 to respond to the growing problem of homelessness in Franklin County. Our founders include: the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the United Way of Central Ohio, the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations concerned about the quality of life in Franklin County. Our primary goal is to increase civic awareness about the causes of and solutions to homelessness and ultimately eliminate homelessness altogether in our communities.

Results

Last year, CSB's partner agencies provided more than 300,000 nights of shelter to over 7,000 men, women and children, moved more than 1,650 people out of shelter and into permanent homes, and prevented homelessness for more than 1,000 households. Over the past five years, housing outcomes have continued to increase across the board for men, women, and families staying at CSB funded shelters. The Rebuilding Lives initiative is on target with its goals to re-configure the shelter system and develop supportive housing.

Despite the progress, the economic downturn is causing increasing homelessness. In fact, family homelessness is up by 14% over last year. Requests for homelessness prevention services are up 25% over last year.

Awards and Recognitions

The results of the first nationwide study on comprehensive plans to address homelessness entitled "Evaluation of Continuums of Care for Homeless People" was released by **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** on August 19, 2002. Franklin County/Columbus, Ohio was included in the study and was recognized as a high-performer within HUD's Continuum of Care process. The report commended the Community Shelter Board's role and stated, "CSB has employed an outcomes-based funding model for nearly five years, creating an atmosphere of success, accountability, and results."

The Community Shelter Board received the 2002 Nonprofit Sector Achievement Award from the **National Alliance to End Homelessness**. CSB was recognized for its leadership and work to build partnerships necessary to end homelessness. The award was given to CSB on behalf of the Columbus and Franklin County community on March 19, 2002, in the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

The **U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO)** recently honored the CSB as being one of the best efforts in the nation for addressing homelessness. A special report developed by GAO praised CSB for playing a central role among service providers and programs in the community and for ensuring that the whole system works together.

The Public Relations Society of America recognized the Community Shelter Board and Edward Howard & Co. with a **Silver Anvil Award** on June 15, 2001 in recognition of our community relations campaign for "Building A Supportive Community to End Homelessness." The Community Shelter Board was one of 46 winners out of 736 entries. The Silver Anvil is annually awarded to public relations practitioners who, in the judgment of their peers, have successfully addressed a contemporary issue with exemplary professional skill, creativity and resourcefulness.

In June 2001, the Urban Institute released a new book on homelessness. In the book, **Helping America's Homeless: Emergency Shelter or Affordable Housing?** by Martha Burt, Laudan Aron and Edgar Lee, the Community Shelter Board was cited for its efforts to offer policy makers and practitioners valuable information to guide them in developing programs that prevent first time and repeat spells of homelessness as well as ameliorate the effects of homelessness.